IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An endoscope container for high-pressure steam sterilization, the endoscope container being stored in a high-pressure sterilizing device, the endoscope container comprising:

a tray serving as a housing and having a plurality of pores;

a lid member blocking an opening of the tray and having a plurality of pores; and

a positioning member, formed in at least one of the tray and lid member, for positioning an insertion member of an endoscope in order to stow the insertion member in the container in a state of having the insertion member bent in a predetermined form, the positioning member restricting bending of a predetermined portion of the insertion member so that a bend radius of a bending portion formed at the predetermined portion of the insertion member of the endoscope ~~having a distal end provided with an observation window~~ will be larger than a bend radius of other portions of the insertion member, the insertion member having a distal end provided with an observation window

wherein the positioning member corresponding with the predetermined portion of the insertion member restricts bending of at least a distal 70 cm portion of the insertion member.

2. (Original) An endoscope container for high-pressure steam sterilization according to Claim 1, wherein said positioning member includes a concave predetermined-portion part of said tray.

3. (Original) An endoscope container for high-pressure steam sterilization according to Claim 1, wherein said positioning member includes a curved wall that is formed on said lid member to exhibit a bend radius larger than a bend radius the proximal portion of the insertion member exhibits when stowed in said endoscope container.

4-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) An endoscope container for high-pressure steam sterilization according to Claim 1, wherein said tray has a handle and a grip for facilitating carrying of said endoscope container.

9. (Previously Presented) An insertion member sheathing member for storage in a high-pressure sterilizing device, the insertion member sheathing member comprising:

a pipe portion, which sheathes a predetermined portion at a distal end side of an insertion member of an endoscope having the distal end side provided with an observation window and holds the predetermined portion in a predetermined form; and

a coil pipe portion that is flexible and sheathes a portion of a flexible tube portion of the insertion member, the flexible tube portion being proximal from the predetermined portion of the insertion member.

10. (Currently Amended) An endoscope container for high-pressure steam sterilization of an endoscope, the endoscope container being stored in a high-pressure sterilizing device, the endoscope container comprising:

a positioning member for restricting bending of at least a predetermined portion at a distal end of an insertion member of the endoscope having an observation window provided at the distal end so that a bend radius of the predetermined portion of the insertion

member will be larger than the ~~minimum~~ bend radius of other portions of the insertion member,

wherein the positioning member corresponding with the predetermined portion of the insertion member restricts bending of at least a distal 70 cm portion of the insertion member.

11. (Currently Amended) An endoscope container for high-pressure sterilization, the endoscope container being stored in a high-pressure sterilizing device, the endoscope container comprising:

a tray provided with a plurality of pores through which high-pressure steam is led and having an opening for stowing an endoscope having an observation window provided at a distal end of an insertion member thereof which is inserted in a subject; and

a positioning member formed in the tray for positioning the endoscope in the tray at least in the state of having the insertion member in part bent, the positioning member effecting the positioning to ensure that a predetermined distal portion of the insertion member is stowed in a substantially straight form or in a curved form that exhibits a bend radius larger than the ~~minimum~~ bend radius of a bent portion at the proximal end side proximal from the predetermined portion of the insertion member.

12. (Previously Presented) An endoscope container for high-pressure sterilization according to Claim 11, wherein the positioning member effects the positioning to ensure that a distal portion of approximately 70 cm long of the insertion member is stowed in a substantially straight form or in a curved form that exhibits a larger bend radius than that at the proximal end of the insertion member.

13. (Previously Presented) An endoscope container for high-pressure sterilization according to Claim 12, wherein the positioning member effects the positioning to ensure that the distal portion of approximately 70 cm long of the insertion member is stowed in a substantially straight form.

14. (Previously Presented) An endoscope container for high-pressure sterilization according to Claim 12, wherein the positioning member includes a concave part formed to stow the distal portion of approximately 70 cm long of the insertion member.

15. (Currently Amended) An endoscope container for high-pressure sterilization, the endoscope container being stored in a high-pressure sterilizing device, the endoscope container comprising:

a tray provided with a plurality of pores through which high-pressure steam is led and having an opening for stowing an endoscope having an observation window provided at a distal end of an insertion member thereof which is inserted in a subject;

a lid member that blocks the opening of the tray, the lid member being provided with a plurality of pores through which high-pressure steam is led into the container;

a positioning member formed in at least one of the tray and the lid member for positioning the endoscope in the tray at least in the state of having the insertion member in part bent, the positioning member effecting the positioning to ensure that a predetermined distal portion of the insertion member is stowed in a substantially straight form or in a curved form that exhibits a bend radius larger than a ~~minimum~~ bend radius of a bent portion at an end side proximal from the predetermined portion of the insertion member.